



Liaising with existing networks, initiatives and other CBE JU projects I

Deliverable 10.11

Author's name: Giacomo Sini

Date: 15.05.2024



Deliverable title

Document ID	D10.11
Due date	31/05/2024
Submission date	31/05/2024
Dissemination level	Confidential
Work Package	10
Keywords	Network, communication

Executive summary

The InnoProtein project (2023-2027) has started establishing a network of partners actively involved in alternative proteins production activities across Europe. The networking and liaison activities are critical in aligning with the long-term objectives of InnoProtein, ensuring participatory processes that enhance the effectiveness of the promotion of alternative proteins products uptake.

The liaison activities aimed at enabling stakeholders to contribute to the promotion of knowledge exchange, extending the InnoProtein audience and supporting communication and dissemination efforts throughout. The project methodology included stakeholder mapping in the first phase, and a network-building approach, involving the already established networks and other EU-Funded projects.

In this first report, we indicated the methodology and the key activities implemented during the first project year.

Document information

Project Number	101112072
Acronym	InnoProtein
Full name	New sustainable proteins for food, feed and non-food bio-based applications
Project URL	Innoprotein
EU project officer	Luisa Mascia

Date of delivery**Contractual:** 31/05/2024**Actual:** 15/05/2024**Authors
(name + organisation)**

Giacomo Sini (EUFIC)

Leona Skracic (EUFIC)

Revision history

Issue date	Revision number	Reviewer	Modifications
15/05/2024	v0.1	Giacomo Sini	Modification

Table of content

Liaising with existing networks, initiatives and other CBE JU projects I.....	1
Deliverable 10.11	1
Deliverable title	2
Executive summary.....	3
Document information	3
Revision history.....	5
1. Introduction.....	7
2. Objectives of the liasising activities	7
3. Methodology	8
4. Key Activities.....	8
4.1. Project Networks	9
4.2. Sister Projects	11
5. Conclusions and Next Steps	14
6. Contact and details	14
Coordinator	14
Project technical manager	14
Deliverable 10.11 author.....	15
Project Officer	15

1. Introduction

The four-year InnoProtein project (2023–2027) aims to foster collaborations, leverage the benefits of cooperation, and identify potential projects, initiatives, and networks for partnership. Networking and liaison activities are crucial for aligning with InnoProtein's long-term goals, ensuring participatory processes that enhance the adoption of alternative protein products among consumers and industry. This promotes sustained collaboration between scientists, policymakers, and society.

The liaison activities focus on establishing a network of projects and stakeholders, involving them in workshops and events, and supporting communication and dissemination efforts throughout. The project methodology began with stakeholder mapping, followed by a series of organized meetings, involving supporting partners at different stages, and participation in project networks. Active involvement of sister projects and stakeholders will be key in the next phase to ensure the success of the consolidation efforts made so far, promoting long-term exchange and interaction within the EU food ecosystem.

2. Objectives of the liaison activities

The objectives of the InnoProtein liaison activities are:

- Increase collaboration with networks such as the International Bioeconomy Forum, EEN, SCAR Bioeconomy SWG, ERRIN, ECBF, European Bioeconomy University, and EUBioNet, along with other CBE JU funded projects, to exchange information and foster specific collaborations.
- Engage stakeholders to raise awareness about alternative protein products and promote a dietary shift in the European Union.
- Involve stakeholders and experts in workshops

3. Methodology

The methodology for establishing a network fostering sustainable participatory processes involves several steps, often running in parallel. For example, while defining the stakeholder mapping, contacts with interested projects and networks were already initiated.

Stakeholder Mapping

The initial phase comprehensively mapped relevant initiatives and networks, including the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), EIT Food, European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN), European Regions for Innovation in Agriculture (ERIAFF), and FOOD2030. Involvement also includes EU and national-level initiatives such as Horizon Europe Partnerships, EIP-AGRI, the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD), and projects funded by the European Commission under CBE JU and Horizon Europe. These networks and projects serve as "multipliers" to engage a broader audience and provide opportunities for mutual learning.

This stakeholder mapping activity is ongoing.

Framework of Activities for Cooperation

A key objective of InnoProtein is to collaborate with other CBE JU-funded projects. Initially, a range of activities was identified to foster collaboration and promote mutual interests. This includes developing a promotional toolkit, mutual promotion of activities on social media, and joining networks like the Sustainable Food Systems Network (SFSN). Joint posts on international days, participation in science fairs, and webinars with joint panel discussions are also planned. Collaboration with the EUBIONET network will further expand outreach and connections.


4. Key Activities

In the first year, collaborative activities positioned InnoProtein as a reference partner for stakeholders. These activities are summarized into two main categories: networks and projects.

4.1. Project Networks

EUBIONET: From the start, InnoProtein joined the European Bioeconomy Network (EuBioNet), which enhances knowledge sharing, networking, mutual learning, and coordination among over 137 projects.


This network aims to increase awareness of the Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy in Europe and strengthen the role of the European Commission in supporting this uptake.



[NEWS AND EVENTS](#)
[ACHIEVEMENTS](#)
[PROJECTS PARTNER](#)
[INITIAT](#)

INNOPROTEIN project

This project ends on: 31/05/2027



New Sustainable Proteins For Food, Feed And Non-Food Bio-Based Applications

By 2050, with the global population expected to reach 10 billion, producing sustainable, high-quality protein becomes a pressing environmental, economic, and social challenge. The EU's "protein gap", importing 70 % of protein-rich crops and 90 % of soybeans, adds urgency to the quest for new, nutritious, and eco-friendly protein sources that cater to diverse markets.

InnoProtein will deliver new products for food, feed and non-food based applications that meet end-users' needs and expectations. By using under-exploited and unexplored protein sources, including microalgae, fungi, bacteria and insects together with new advanced techniques for protein extraction, the project will contribute to reducing the EU protein gap and the pressure on natural resources.

The experienced consortium will provide an eco-business model, proving the economic availability of the solution and the social and environmental benefits. To improve the efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of the protein extraction, InnoProtein will adopt a circular and zero waste approach by using the residual biomass and the streams of protein production processes to obtain bioplastics and biostimulants.

Giacomo Sini: giacomo.sini@eufic.org

FOOD2030 Network: The FOOD 2030 Online Platform gathers projects, partnerships, and networks working on transforming the food system for the benefit of people and the planet. The FOOD 2030 Project Collaboration Network aims to **bring together European, national, regional and local projects, partnerships and networks** that share a similar vision of shifting the **food system to become fairer, healthier and sustainable**. The Network will be the single largest aggregation of sustainable food systems initiatives in Europe that combined will make a powerful collective and society-wide impact. Currently, it has more than 80 projects. By Joining the Network, InnoProtein consortium will have the chance to:

- Expand network and join forces with like-minded projects;
- Share successful practices and explore synergies;
- Receive targeted support and develop new competences;
- Collaborate on activities and organize joint events;
- Showcase your project results and maximize impact;
- influence policymaking and inform future EU legislation.

The origin of the Food 2030 Platform is the EU-funded project CLEVERFOOD as part of its efforts to organize a joined-up approach to transforming the food system for the benefit of the people and the planet.

By joining, InnoProtein can expand its network, share successful practices, receive support, collaborate on activities, showcase results, and influence policymaking.

4.2. Sister Projects

CHEERS Project: InnoProtein initiated collaboration with CHEERS project which focuses on circular bioeconomy and alternative protein solutions.

On the 12th of December 2023, InnoProtein and Cheers have a first meeting to discuss the common communication activities.

- Participate in webinar or workshops organized by the other project.
- Posting on social media and sponsor the activities of both projects
- Include InnoProtein logo into the webpage of CHEERS

Main results:

- CHEERS has been invited to join us in the webinar of the 29th of February, held by EUFIC but unfortunately the reply arrived too late to change the agenda. However, CHEERS projects shown interest in participating in future webinars especially regarding standardization activities
- Both projects posted about the meeting and their willingness to cooperate
- InnoProtein is now part of the sister project network in the [CHEERS website](#)

SYLPLANT Project: This project, funded under the HORIZON-JU-CBE-2022-IAFlag-02 topic- Alternative sources for high added value food and/or feed ingredients.

The SylPlant project aims to build and operate Arbiom's plant to produce at large scale protein-rich ingredients with one of the lowest environmental impacts. Made from fermentation of diverse carbon sources including

lignocellulosic material and agricultural side streams, Arbiom's protein ingredients cover both human food (Yusto®) and feed (SylPro®) applications.

InnoProtein consortium contacted the SYPLANT project from the very beginning and we set up a first meeting on the 13th of November 2023.

Among the many proposed activities, both projects agreed on the following ones:

- Mutual promotion of the Communication activities
- LinkedIn & Twitter - Tagging/re-sharing + presenting the projects
- SFSN - Sustainable Food Systems Network - SYLPLANT partners join the SFSN
- Join posts on social media on occasion of Relevant International world days
- Webinar: a joint 1-h panel discussion with experts on a specific topic
- Participation of a SYLPLANT representative as a speaker in 1 (or more) interactive standardization workshops for a roadmap + promotion of them
- Participation of a SYLPLANT representative in InnoProtein Think Tank
- Mutual collaboration/promotion, in general
- Join EUBIONET

On the 29th of February, SYLPLANT participated in the InnoProtein webinar: [An in-depth vision on alternative protein](#) giving an overview of the SYLPLANT project and showing the connection between the 2 projects.

CIRCALGAE Project: Focused on developing sustainable algae-based biorefineries, this project has opportunities for joint dissemination actions.

Initial meetings explored potential technical collaboration, with plans for further meetings to define next steps.

5. Conclusions and Next Steps

Since its start in June 2023, InnoProtein has connected with other projects and initiatives to boost its results and collaborate with various entities. These collaborations are crucial for ensuring consumer and industry engagement in promoting a sustainable alternative protein-based diet and economy. The main steps for the next three years are:

- Continue and reinforce cooperation with sister projects and expand the network.
- Involve all projects in clustering communication under a common hashtag.
- Leverage the EUBIONET and FOOD2030 networks to boost project activities.

6. Contact and details

Coordinator

- María Carmen Villarán, Fundación Tecnia Research & Innovation, TECNALIA
- +34 671 645 872
- mcarmen.villaran@tecnalia.com

Project technical manager

- Silvia Quintela, Fundación Tecnia Research & Innovation, TECNALIA
- +34 664 043 249
- silvia.quintela@tecnalia.com

Deliverable 10.11 author

- Giacomo Sini, European Food Information Council, EUFIC
- giacomo.sini@eufic.org

Project Officer

- Luisa Mascia, CBE JU
- +32 485 927 957
- luisa.mascia@cbe.europa.eu